

Crushing's Infantry Follows Up Gains in Argonne

BRITISH CANNON MOVED RAPIDLY

Battle on Cambrai-St. Quentin Front Develops Into One of Fast Action.

TANKS AND CARS IN DRIVE

Canadians and British Pursue Fleeing Boche, Who Realized Uselessness of Fight.

With the British Army on the Cambrai-St. Quentin Front, Wednesday, Oct. 9.—(By the Associated Press.)—By last night the British and Americans had reached a point where it was certain that the German lines, with probably one hard blow could be checked. As a matter of fact, cavalry might have gone through the German lines last night in considerable numbers. Only patrols were sent out, however, while the main bodies were held just back of the line.

After a night of heavy firing from the British guns, during which the sky seemed to blaze with flashes, the third and fourth armies again attacked this morning from Cambrai south, to the front held by the French. At the same time the Canadian and English troops, after a "crash" barrage launched a powerful attack extending some miles north from Cambrai.

For miles the front suddenly sprang into action. The Canadians had hard going at one place just north of Cambrai, but with great gallantry swept on after annihilating the Germans who tried to bar their way. From there on the resistance weakened and the Canadians, with the English, hurried eastward, smothering the usual screen of German machine gunners as they went.

Met in Center Cambrai. Canadian and British troops met in the center of Cambrai, which was entered from both north and south and quickly mopped up. Many Germans had escaped, but many hundreds who had been held there to launch a counter-attack were either killed or captured. Some of the enemy troops are still in deep cellars two stories underground and in the tunnels the Germans dug out of the city.

These are being routed out and sent back to the cages. Although many fires were started by the Germans, the town was found not to be as badly damaged as had been feared. The solid buildings withstood, however, that it was no fault of the Germans that the city had not been leveled to the ground by the many fires they had kindled.

South of the city the third and fourth armies overcame enemy opposition. The Germans started fleeing soon after the attack began, for they realized they were fighting a battle in which they could hope for no success. The front line for twenty miles came moving rapidly toward them. Then came reports from airplanes, with which the reports were literally crowded, that Cambrai had been taken. Soon the capture of Harcourt was reported. From then on tidings came in rapid succession of the villages falling before the allied advance.

Close in on Caudey and Bray. Selvingny, Caudey, Ligny, Montigny and Marez were quickly reached and passed and soon the allies were in the closing in on Caudey and Bray. In the same time from the north it was reported that Escadoudoures, east of Cambrai, had been taken and that Inchy was being approached.

The Cambrai-Le Cateau road was crossed and then the railway between St. Quentin and Bertry was cut. Senconcourt was the next town and Fontaine Notre Dame, further south, had been reached by the French. By that time it was clear the enemy was badly smashed and the British and Americans stood on the threshold of the wide open country. It was about that time that the cavalry poured through the wide breach in the now shattered Hindenburg system and streamed out into the country beyond. Fast "whipped" tanks and armored cars also crashed forward and came into action. They smashed down strong points held by rear guards who had been waiting for the cavalry, knowing that it had come through the line.

Cavalry forces now are apparently well east of the towns reported captured. The allies having thus broken through the Germans north and south for many miles are endangered, for their lines are being turned. The enemy even a broken scale than that now in progress may therefore be expected.

Distinctly Satisfied. Officers directing the attack were distinctly satisfied as the news came back. The best report was from an air patrol that the British had broken through the German line as far east as Le Cateau. Enemy troops and transports, it was said, were streaming along the roads and over the fields trying to make their escape. Such a thing as troops who have just attacked marching through town 100 yards from the place where they started is a thing that has not happened for a long time. Such a thing could only happen now, when the enemy is defeated, disorganized, disheartened and running for the very existence. The troops at Bertry kept right on marching.

Where the Germans will stop is, of course, impossible to tell. It is known that they have been working on a line running generally back of Le Cateau, but prisoners say that this line is in an embryo condition and cannot offer much protection. Even if it did, the British would not have much trouble in smashing it, considering their overwhelming preponderance of guns, munitions and men.

Battle of Movement. British cannon had moved on the move eastward all day long. In many cases batteries would gallop over the rolling plains of Artois. They would stop, wheel about and fire for a while, then dash on and repeat the performance. This has developed into a battle of very rapid movement.

There is no intention to let the Germans get a chance to regain their breath and organize their smashed forces. British troops are advancing steadily across the road from Cambrai.

LUDENDORFF GOES TO BERLIN FOR CONFERENCE. Basel, Switzerland, Oct. 10.—Gen. Ludendorff has arrived at Berlin from the German grand headquarters to take part in conferences to be held at the German capital, according to information received here today.

SKY DOTTED WITH BRITISH PLANES

Airmen Play Big Part on Cambrai-St. Quentin Front.

CIVILIANS LIBERATED

Women and Children Hide in Cellars of Mont Brehain While Battle Rages.

(By John T. Parkinson.) With the British Army on the St. Quentin-Cambrai Front, Oct. 9.—(I. N. S.)—(Night.)—British airmen again played important parts in the advance of the British-French-American today all the way from north of Cambrai to south of St. Quentin. The weather cleared soon after the attack was renewed this morning, and the airmen immediately began assisting the advancing troops.

The sky was dotted with the British machines in a few minutes. Many thrilling battles took place over the lines, but the British airmen had little difficulty in establishing their mastery. They shot down many enemy machines and put all the rest to rout. After they had cleared the air, the British airmen started attacking the German infantry. Flying low, they machine-gunned the troops and transports and bombed machine gun nests. They were of great assistance in clearing out posts that gave the British infantrymen trouble.

Scores of French civilians, old men, women and children, were liberated by the British and American troops today. In the village of Mont Brehain alone there were a great many French civilians. They had hidden in cellars for three days while the battle raged back and forth about them. Mont Brehain had changed hands three times in the past few days, and all that time the village had been under constant shell fire.

The population greeted the Americans and British joyfully. The old men and women tearfully embraced the doughboys, while the children romped with them. The British airmen had all wore their best clothes. What they had on, they said, was all they had saved from the Germans. A 10-year-old boy, given chocolate candy, said it was the first he had ever had. The inhabitants said they had had no butter for two and a half years. The Germans took most of the provisions by neutral committees for the civilians.

Pathetic scenes were witnessed as American and British wounded went back through the town toward the front. The Germans cheerfully helped, calling them "saviors of France."

Fires Reported. Fires were reported far east of Le Cateau today, more than ten miles eastward of the present battle line. The Germans are wantedly firing villages and everything that they cannot carry off and it is strongly indicated that another big retreat has begun.

British cavalry is reported to have reached the outskirts of Busigny, a small town on the Bohain-Le Cateau road.

It is believed that the Germans have entered the first stage of a new retreat to a hurriedly prepared new line between Le Cateau and Vaux Audry. Thousands of additional prisoners are expected to have fallen into the hands of the British.

VIENNA GROWS IMPATIENT. Paris, Oct. 10.—Perverish impatience is shown by the people of Vienna while awaiting President Wilson's reply to the peace proposals of the central powers, according to a dispatch from Zurich.

bral to Le Cateau and every hour has been further farther east. The Escourt line, which has been the backbone of the German line, has been passed virtually along its entire length. It has been left far behind. The British are absolutely confident they can break down any line the Germans may break in the whole district behind the south of Cambrai they have cleared the enemy from the last line of the Hindenburg system, which in this locality was extraordinarily strong. Trenches and gun positions, which were fifty yards deep, in which there were numerous concrete pill boxes, were common obstacles.

The British broke through after smashing down the wire, repulsed counter attacks and then swept down in the rear of the line and wiped out strong German garrisons. The ground in this territory is sooty with German blood and covered with German dead.

French Civilians Rescued. Many French civilians have been rescued from the towns that have been recaptured. Five hundred were brought back to freedom in one town alone. It was soon after the Germans broke and ran that they began to break in the whole district behind them and the ground rocked with terrific explosions as ammunition, which they had had no time to save, was destroyed.

It is impossible to forecast where the British drive will end. German prisoners believe that the war is almost over. The Germans are badly shaken, and their century-old war machine crumbling to pieces overnight.

CAPTURE MARCY, EAST ST. QUENTIN

Crossing of Railroad by French Cuts Off Escape of Germans.

VICTORY COMPLETE

Level Ground Now Ahead of Yankees—No Elaborate Fortifications.

Vigorously pressing the advantage gained by the breaking of the German line between Cambrai and St. Quentin, the British, French and Americans have widened a great wedge in this area to such extent that the entire German line from Rheims northward seems to be collapsing. The disintegration of this line is being hastened by vigorous strokes delivered by the French along the left flank, which is being hampered by other French forces and an American army in the Champagne, Argonne, in the Verdun regions.

Most telling in its immediate effect is the thrust by Field Marshal Haig's southern of Cambrai, where American troops also are operating. The British commander has swung the main direction of his drive northward and already has pushed to within two miles of the important railway junction of Le Cateau.

Crossing the St. Quentin-Le Cateau railroad, the French forces operating just south of the Americans and British along the line where the Hindenburg system has been smashed, have made a new advance which appears to be important. Marcy has been captured from the enemy and the French have reached Fontaine Notre Dame and Fossefontaine, well east of the railroad. They have also occupied Elaves wood and the village of Boeclaux, further north.

Before Le Cateau the British are on a line fully ten miles in advance of the German line. The British have swept through the greater part of this area in great strides, driving before them a disorganized enemy. The resistance of the Germans was reported to be stiffening, but the British are pushing forward, indicating that a stand might be made in an effort to save the railway junction as long as possible from capture.

Meanwhile farther south the French are pushing toward the Oise in the general direction of Guise. They have made particularly notable progress to the east and southeast of St. Quentin, where they are closely approaching the river. Their columns have passed Fontaine Notre Dame, nearly six miles directly east of St. Quentin. This push is likewise having a marked effect in closing the Loon pocket. In the north the wedge driven from Cambrai east is already affecting the front north to Lens. The British first army is moving forward here in the direction of Douai, which seems the next great thrust marked for capture by the allies along the British section of the line.

The American first army, under Gen. Pershing, is not being outdone by the other allied forces in the delivery of hard blows upon the trembling German defenses. The French, who are east of the Meuse in the Verdun area, is being followed up by further attacks which have resulted in the advance of the line here well toward that won by the offensive west of the river. In the Argonne, where the French have been effected with the French, the British, thus virtually clearing the forest of Germans, new attacks were launched this morning. All the recent gains of Gen. Pershing's men have been held, notwithstanding the throwing in of German reserves. The British, who comprised no less than 350 machines.

Marcy is approximately five miles east of St. Quentin and is directly south of the line on which the British and Americans were fighting yesterday. This advance has been so smashing that the Germans just north of St. Quentin could escape from the net being thrown about them and marks a new step in the operation of outflanking the German line.

British and American forces seem to have won a complete victory south-east and east of Cambrai. Reports from the front state that the allies are marching eastward through burning towns in pursuit of the enemy who appears to be retreating.

At some points in this sector the German rear guards are still fighting desperately but they are being wiped out by the advancing British and Americans. Cambrai has been taken. The city collapsed the German line along front which will probably extend as far as Douai, or even further northward. There is nothing to indicate that the Germans intend to make a stand, and a general retreat of the enemy, with his troops near Loon rapidly being enveloped.

Americans fighting in the sector between the Meuse and the Argonne forest have again broken the German lines and have reached a point from which they can see level ground ahead, with no more elaborate German fortifications than the ones which they have already broken through. The advance was made in the region of Romagne, which is on the Kriemhilde line west of the Meuse. East of the river, the Americans are slowly forcing the enemy back from his positions from which he had heavily shelled the American troops fighting northward against the Kriemhilde line.

In the Champagne sector the Germans are fighting savagely to hold up the French pursuit of the enemy forces which are being withdrawn toward the north. Along the Suippe, northeast of Rheims, the French have gained new footholds on the north side of the river, in spite of heavy German counter attacks.

Turkey Will Withdraw. Advice received in allied countries are believed to indicate that Turkey will withdraw from the war very soon. Turkish Pasha, understood to be pro-ally in his sympathies, is said to have been chosen as the grand vizier in succession to Talaat Pasha, who has been considered the man who has held Turkey in the war for so long.

Stockholm reports that there are persistent rumors there that Emperor William of Germany has abdicated.

Where Allies Are Pouring Through the Breach.



ABDICATION OF KAISER RUMORED HUN RESISTANCE BROKEN DOWN

Story Persistent and Wide-spread in Stockholm, but Lacks Confirmation. Yankees Advance Three Miles in Advance of Positions Captured Friday.

(By Newton C. Parke.) With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 9.—(Night.)—(I. N. S.)—American patrols are approaching Sipry-sur-Meuse, nearly three miles in advance of the positions they captured on Tuesday.

Counter Attack. The German counter attack with great violence northwest of Consenvoye, using Austrians, who were brought up to reinforce the lines. The boches attempted to "pinch off" the American positions south of Consenvoye. The crash and detonation were heard for miles. Great damage, the exact extent of which has not yet been determined, was done in Cambrai.

With the American Army on the Champagne Front, Oct. 10.—(Morning.)—Following the smashing of the Kriemhilde line by American forces on the Champagne-Meuse front, the Germans have been forced to evacuate the Argonne forest and to retreat today that they would attempt to make a stand just south of Grandpre.

The German left flank south of Grandpre is already menaced by the Americans' advance on the Somme-Romagne-Roubaix road.

A new attack was delivered this morning against the Kriemhilde system of defenses, the Americans attacking through a thick fog.

One whole Austro-German line of defense in the marsh land north of Consenvoye, was taken. The Americans continued to press forward, on the Somme-Romagne road.

Progress was still being made this evening in this sector when at the same time the Americans were advancing westward in their blows to close completely the Argonne salient.

American Advance. The American advance westward from Fleville in conjunction with the French advance eastward, has cost the Germans practically all of their artillery from the Argonne forest.

Strong machine gun detachments were left behind, which have been resisting the American advance with great stubbornness. More than 200 prisoners were captured in the forty-eight hours, and of them being machine gunners.

South of Sipry, the Americans broke up strong German machine gun resistance during the afternoon.

Barricades Broken Down. The enemy had barricaded the outskirts of the town, but late in the afternoon, the Americans broke through this resistance and hard fighting was reported there tonight.

The Germans put up desperate resistance west of Romagne also, being favored there by high ground. Heavy counter attacks were launched in this district and the American lines were forced back slightly, but after the attack was repulsed, the Germans were again driven rearward.

UNION OF POLAND. German Association Decided in Favor of German State in Austria. London, Oct. 10.—A union of all Polish territories is soon to be proclaimed at Warsaw, said an Exchange Telegraph dispatch received here today. The dispatch added that a congress of German associations was held in Austria and adopted a resolution in favor of creation of a German state in Austria.

SPREADING INFLUENZA. Men From Forest Take Disease to Camp Lewis, Tacoma. Camp Lewis, Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 10.—Influenza made its first appearance in Camp Lewis today with the arrival of 217 officers and enlisted men from Camp Forrest, Georgia. It was announced today by Maj. Irby O. McGinnis, division sanitary inspector. Fifteen cases were discovered in the unit. These were immediately isolated and quarantined at the base hospital. Every other member of the unit was placed immediately in restrictive quarantine to prevent the disease from spreading among other soldiers here.

SMASH VAUNTED KRIEMHILDE LINE

American Hot Fire Forces Germans to Evacuate Argonne Forest.

GRANDPRE NOW MENACED

American Artillery Batters Down Enemy Entanglements and Redoubts.

With the American Forces North-west of Verdun, Oct. 10.—(Noon.)—Gen. Pershing's infantry today again went into action on the left wing of the Argonne forest front after a violent artillery bombardment lasting all night. The Germans are throwing in reserves on their left flank, which now has been exposed in the Argonne pocket.

The enemy also is endeavoring to withdraw his troops at other points so as to restore the line. The American artillery on the right wing was active all night. The bombardment met with little reaction on the part of the Germans. In the center the Americans are holding all the advanced positions which they gained yesterday, and are meeting with little enemy activity except for a barrage.

Harassing Fire. Early this morning the Germans laid down a harassing fire in the areas to the rear of the American positions. During the night patrols operated preparatory to further infantry action today and this morning the entire front continued to be fairly active.

Fires have been seen burning on the east bank of the Meuse towards Harcourt, northeast of Vigneux-sur-Meuse. West of the river concentrations have been reported in the towns of Alincourt, Dun and Bantheville.

Germans Demoralized. With the Anglo-American Forces Southeast of Cambrai, Oct. 10.—(Morning.)—British and American forces continued to advance rapidly and are driving the demoralized Germans before them, according to all available reports on this front. The whole battle is on a field that was a mine throughout the night. The many fires have completely destroyed towns and farm houses.

The powerful mines which the Germans had placed under Cambrai seem to have been set with a time fuse, the idea being to complete the destruction started by fire and to kill as great a number of the allied soldiers as possible. The explosion went off with a roar under the center of the town after it had been occupied by the British.

The crash and detonation were heard for miles. Great damage, the exact extent of which has not yet been determined, was done in Cambrai.

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ADVANCE MADE IN AREA EAST LENS

British Capture Sallaumines and Noyelles, Within Two Miles of Lens.

FRENCH GAIN STEADILY

Fighting in Progress Southeast Cambrai on Both Sides of Caudey.

London, Oct. 10.—(11:15 a.m.)—British troops that drove through Cambrai yesterday have reached a point within two miles of the German stronghold of Le Cateau, the war office announced today. (Le Cateau is about fourteen miles southeast of Cambrai.)

The advance was continued Wednesday night along the Cambrai-St. Quentin front and the Cambrai-Le Cateau road was crossed.

Noyelles Captured. The attack of the Anglo-American forces in the breach between St. Quentin and Cambrai resulted yesterday evening in continued advances, according to Field Marshal Haig's report today. The British now are within two or five miles of Le Cateau. Sallaumines and Noyelles have been captured.

The capture of Sallaumines and Noyelles represents a British advance in the district east of Lens.

Evates Wood Captured. Paris, Oct. 10.—French troops advancing eastward toward the Cateau railroad have captured Evates wood and Boeclaux village and farther south have taken Marcy and reached Fontaine Notre Dame, as well as Fossefontaine, it is officially announced.

Progress East of Cambrai. London, Oct. 10.—Further progress was made by the British last night toward the northern part of the present battle front to the east of Cambrai. Fighting is going on southeast of Cambrai, on the line of the Somme-Romagne-Roubaix road.

Between Lens and Scarpe. Between Lens and the Scarpe the British also are advancing and are in touch with the Germans to the west of the line of the Somme-Romagne-Roubaix road.

French in Pursuit. Paris, Oct. 10.—French troops last night continued the pursuit of the Germans in the region east of St. Quentin. The war office announced today. They have passed Fontaine Notre Dame and Beaumont.

In fighting north of the Aisne French pressure resulted in wresting the plateau de Croix-Sans-Tel from the Germans while the British were attacking the Aisne canal was effected in the region of Villers-en-Prayeres.

Attacking vigorously in the Champagne the French captured Liry, two miles west of Monthais.

Enhancing the Victory. The success of the Cambrai-St. Quentin sector was in a large measure made possible by the splendid achievements of Gen. Gouraud's men and the Americans from Rheims to the Meuse. Because of the break in that part of the front would have much worse consequences for the enemy than anywhere else the Germans concentrated most of their reserves there.

Gen. Gouraud not only succeeded in holding them there, but has made and is continuing to make wonderful progress, thus enhancing the victory farther west.

Yesterday Gen. Gouraud's forces advanced still farther toward the important junction of Vouziers, while the Americans pushed forward and joined the French south of Grandpre, thus completing the conquest of the Argonne forest.

The result of Marshal Foch's skillful strategy is that the region of Loon and the St. Gobain massif has become so dangerous that the evacuation of this vast and important pocket in the near future seems imperative.

VIVIANI APPROVES REPLY

Former French Premier Says Wilson's Note Was Well-Timed.

Paris, Oct. 10.—Rene Viviani, former premier, writing on President Wilson's reply to the Prince Maximilian in the Petit Journal, says:

"The reply was well timed. Had it come too soon it would have permitted the Germans to say that it was not born of wise mediation. Had it been sent too late it might have given them the impression that the negotiations were divided and had to come to an agreement."

"The note is firm without brutality; but devoid of that insolence with which Germany has so often accompanied her tramping of the quivered. It is substantial, furnishing irrefutable arguments for the reason and conscience of everybody even in Germany. Some might have preferred that it be more trenchant, but what blood is flowing from so many gaping wounds no man can lightly answer with a simple denial such proposals—without leaving to Germany the appearance of a refusal to negotiate."

The note is skillful, with its simple skill which seeks a straight line instead of the mediocre tricks with which commonplace diplomacy tangles its traditional threads."

By Logical Process. President Wilson arrives at the condition that allied territory be evacuated but this is not thrown at the enemy like a challenge. It cannot be but that by an attitude which will illuminate Germany's good or bad faith and which will prove to the world if sincerely inspired the proposals under examination."

"Therein lies diplomatic skill. It will be noted that the danger of rupture will rest on the central empires—or rather on Germany, which President Wilson isolates from the other central allies as if he considered the latter as already crushed at the feet of the entente."

"If the German designs are honest we shall see it. If they wish to deceive the world—let us say to that mental blenheim which makes them consider other men as inferiors—we shall also see it. It is for Prince Maximilian of Baden to speak."

INCREASE ON TOBACCO RATES. Washington, Oct. 10.—Increases of 25 per cent in rates on manufactured tobacco from points in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia to central freight association territory are asked by the railroads operating there in application to the interstate commerce commission today.